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McNAIR LAW FIRM, P.A.
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

www.mcnair.net

BANK OF AMERICA TOWER
1301 GERVAIS STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201

POST OFFICE BOX 11390
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211
TELEPHONE (803) 799-9800
FACSIMILE (803) 376-2219

September 29, 2006

2006-301-C

Mr. Charles L. A. Terreni
Chief Clerk/Administrator
South Carolina Public Service Commission
Synergy Business Park, The Saluda Building
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RECEIVED
2006 SEP 29 PM 2:48
SC PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Re: Interconnection Agreement Between Bluffton Telephone Company
and Embarq Communications, Inc.

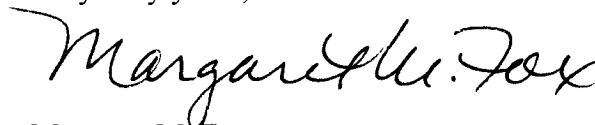
Dear Mr. Terreni:

Enclosed for filing with the Commission please find three (3) copies of the Interconnection Agreement between Bluffton Telephone Company and Embarq Communications, Inc. This agreement is being submitted for the Commission's approval pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(e).

Please clock in a copy and return it with our courier.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


Margaret M. Fox

MMF/rwm
Enclosures

cc: Robert J. LaBonté

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SC PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

BETWEEN

Bluffton Telephone Company

AND

Embarq Communications, Inc.

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GLOSSARY

ATTACHMENTS:

- Interconnection Attachment
- Local Number Portability Attachment
- Ancillary Services Attachment
- Pre-Ordering, Ordering, Provisioning, Maintenance and Repair Attachment
- Pricing Attachment

AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is effective as of the ____ day of _____, 2006 (the "Effective Date"), by and between Embarq Communications, Inc. ("CLEC") with offices at 5454 W. 110th St., Overland Park, KS 66211 and Bluffton Telephone Company ("ILEC") with offices at 856 William Hilton Parkway, Hilton Head Island, SC 29938. This Agreement may refer to either ILEC or CLEC or both as a "Party" or "Parties."

WHEREAS, ILEC is a local exchange telecommunications company authorized to provide telecommunications services in the state of South Carolina and

WHEREAS, CLEC is or seeks to become a competitive local exchange telecommunications company ("CLEC") authorized to provide telecommunications services in the state of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to interconnect their facilities and exchange traffic specifically for the purposes of fulfilling their obligations pursuant to the Communications Act of 1934, as amended ("the Act"), as well as other applicable law.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual agreements contained herein, ILEC and CLEC agree as follows:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Parties agree that the rates, terms and conditions contained within this Agreement, including all Attachments, comply and conform to each Party's obligations under the Act.
- 1.2 ILEC has no obligation to establish interconnection service arrangements to enable CLEC to solely exchange Information Services traffic. CLEC agrees that it is requesting and will use this arrangement for purposes of exchanging Telecommunications Traffic. CLEC agrees that it will not offer Information services under this arrangement unless it is offering Telecommunications services as well. The FCC has not determined whether IP-Enabled Traffic is a Telecommunication Service or an Information Service. For the purpose of this Agreement, IP-Enabled Traffic is treated similarly to other voice traffic. If the FCC determines that IP-Enabled Traffic is other than Telecommunications Service and IP-Enabled Traffic is exchanged under this Agreement, the terms of this Agreement shall remain in effect until such time as this Agreement is modified under the change in law provisions of Section 28 of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement
- 1.3 ILEC has no obligation to establish interconnection service arrangements to enable CLEC to solely exchange interexchange toll traffic. CLEC agrees that it is requesting and will use this arrangement for purposes of exchanging local Telecommunications Traffic. CLEC agrees that it will not offer interexchange toll

interval or such extended period as agreed upon by the Parties, as well as any related arbitration or mediation before the Commission or FCC under § 252 of the Act, until the earlier of (i) the Parties execution of a successor agreement or (ii) issuance of an order, whether a final non-appealable order or not, by the Commission or FCC, approving an agreement resulting from the resolution of the issues set forth in such arbitration or mediation request.

- 3.3 In the event that on the End Date the Parties have not executed a successor agreement and Section 3.2 does not apply, the Parties will continue to provide services to each other pursuant to one of the following:

3.3.1 An existing agreement between ILEC and another carrier adopted by CLEC for the remaining term of that agreement, if ILEC has at least two valid agreements for CLEC to consider for adoption. If CLEC fails to designate an agreement under this subsection, then ILEC may designate an agreement upon 15 days notice to CLEC, during which time CLEC may designate an alternate agreement of its choosing.

3.3.2 If ILEC has one (or zero) existing agreements for CLEC to consider for adoption, CLEC may either choose to adopt the available agreement or choose to continue the terms of this Agreement on a month-to-month basis.

4. Contact Exchange

The Parties agree to exchange and to update contact and referral numbers for order inquiry, trouble reporting, billing inquiries, and information required to comply with law enforcement and other security agencies of the government.

5. Amendments

Any amendment, modification, or supplement to this Agreement must be in writing and signed by an authorized representative of each Party. The term "this Agreement" shall include future amendments, modifications, and supplements.

6. Assignment

This Agreement shall be binding upon the Parties and shall continue to be binding upon all such entities regardless of any subsequent change in their ownership. All obligations and duties of any Party under this Agreement shall be binding on all successors in interest and assigns of such Party. Each Party covenants that, if it sells or otherwise transfers to a third party, unless the Party which is not the subject of the sale or transfer reasonably determines that the legal structure of the transfer vitiates any such need, it will require, as a condition of such transfer, that the transferee agree to be bound by this Agreement with respect to services provided over the transferred facilities. Except as provided in this paragraph, neither Party may assign or transfer (whether by operation of law or otherwise) this Agreement (or any rights or obligations hereunder) to a third party without the prior written consent of the other Party which consent will not be

interval or such extended period as agreed upon by the Parties, as well as any related arbitration or mediation before the Commission or FCC under § 252 of the Act, until the earlier of (i) the Parties execution of a successor agreement or (ii) issuance of an order, whether a final non-appealable order or not, by the Commission or FCC, approving an agreement resulting from the resolution of the issues set forth in such arbitration or mediation request.

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unreasonably withheld, provided that either Party may assign this Agreement to a corporate Affiliate or an entity acquiring all or substantially all of its assets or equity by providing prior written notice to the other Party of such assignment or transfer. The effectiveness of an assignment shall be conditioned upon the assignee's written assumption of the rights, obligations, and duties of the assigning Party. Any attempted assignment or transfer that is not permitted is void *ab initio*. No assignment or delegation hereof shall relieve the assignor of its obligations under this Agreement in the event that the assignee fails to perform such obligations. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties' respective successors and assigns.

Except as may otherwise be provided in this Agreement, any assignment by either Party of any right, obligation, or duty, in whole or in part, or of any interest, without the written consent of the other Party, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, shall be void.

7. Authority

Each person whose signature appears on this Agreement represents and warrants that he or she has authority to bind the Party on whose behalf he or she has executed this Agreement. Each Party represents that he or she has had the opportunity to consult with legal counsel of his or her choosing.

8. Responsibility for Payment

Each Party will render to the other monthly bill(s) for interconnection and facilities provided hereunder at the rates set forth in the Pricing Attachment or applicable tariff. Each Party shall pay bills in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. In the event that either Party defaults on its payment obligation to the other Party, service to the defaulting Party will be terminated in accordance the terms of this Agreement, as well as state and federal law, and any security deposits held will be applied to the outstanding balance owed by the defaulting Party.

9. Billing and Payment

9.1 In consideration of the services and facilities provided under this Agreement, the Parties shall bill the other Party on a monthly basis all applicable charges set forth in this Agreement or in ILEC's applicable tariff. The Party billed ("Billed Party") shall pay to the invoicing Party ("Billing Party") all undisputed amounts within thirty (30) days from the bill date. If the payment due date is a Saturday, Sunday, or a designated bank holiday, payment shall be made by the prior business day.

9.2 Billing Disputes Related to Unpaid Amounts

9.2.1 If any portion of an amount due to a Party (the "Billing Party") under this Agreement is subject to a bona fide dispute between the Parties, the Party billed (the "Non-Paying Party") shall, within thirty (30) days of its receipt of the invoice containing such disputed amount, give written notice to the Billing Party of the amount it disputes ("Disputed Amounts") and include

in such notice the specific details and reasons for disputing each item. The Non-Paying Party shall pay when due all undisputed amounts to the Billing Party. The Parties will work together in good faith to resolve issues relating to the disputed amounts. If the dispute is resolved such that payment is required, the Non-Paying Party shall pay the disputed amounts with interest at the lesser of (i) one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) per month or (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under South Carolina's applicable law. However, the interest charges may be waived if the dispute involves an error by the Billing Party. In addition, the Billing Party may cease terminating traffic for the Non-Paying Party after undisputed amounts not paid become more than 90 days past due, provided the Billing Party has given an additional 30 days written notice and opportunity to cure the default.

9.2.2 Any undisputed amounts not paid when due shall accrue interest from the date such amounts were due at the lesser of (i) one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) per month or (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under South Carolina's applicable law.

9.2.3 Issues related to Disputed Amounts shall be resolved in accordance with all of the applicable procedures identified in the Dispute Resolution provisions set forth in Section 13 of this Agreement.

9.3 Except for amounts disputed pursuant to Section 9.2 herein, the following shall apply:

9.3.1 If payment is not received thirty (30) days from the bill date, ILEC may provide written notice to CLEC that additional applications for service will be refused, and that any pending orders for service will not be completed if payment is not received by the fifteenth (15th) day following the date of the notice. If ILEC does not refuse additional applications for service on the date specified in the notice, and CLEC's noncompliance continues, nothing contained herein shall preclude ILEC's right to refuse additional applications for service without further notice.

9.3.2 If CLEC fails to make any payment following the notice under Section 9.3.1, ILEC may on thirty (30) days written notice to CLEC discontinue the provision of existing services to CLEC at any time thereafter. Notice shall be as provided in Section 26 below. In the case of such discontinuance, all billed charges, as well as applicable termination charges, shall become due. If ILEC does not discontinue the provision of the services involved on the date specified in the thirty (30) days notice, and CLEC noncompliance continues, nothing contained herein shall preclude ILEC's right to discontinue the provision of the services to CLEC without further notice.

9.3.3 If payment is not received within ninety (90) days of notice under Section 9.3.2, ILEC may terminate this Agreement.

9.3.4 After disconnect procedures have begun, ILEC shall not accept service orders from CLEC until all unpaid charges are paid in full in immediately available funds.

9.4 Audits

Either Party may conduct an audit of the other Party's books and records pertaining to the services provided under this Agreement, no more frequently than once per twelve (12) month period, to evaluate the other Party's accuracy of billing data, and invoicing in accordance with this Agreement. Any audit shall be performed as follows: (i) following at least thirty (30) days prior written notice to the audited Party; (ii) subject to the reasonable scheduling requirements and limitations of the audited Party; (iii) at the auditing Party's sole cost and expense; (iv) of a reasonable scope and duration; (v) in a manner so as not to interfere with the audited Party's business operations; and (vi) in compliance with the audited Party's security rules.

9.5 Recording

The Parties shall each perform traffic recording and identification functions necessary to provide the services contemplated hereunder. Each Party shall calculate terminating duration of minutes used based on standard Automatic Message Accounting ("AMA") records made within each Party's network. The records shall contain the information to properly assess the jurisdiction of the call including ANI or service provider information necessary to identify the originating company, and originating signaling information. The Parties shall each use commercially reasonable efforts, to provide these records monthly, but in no event later than thirty (30) days after generation of the usage data.

10. Compliance with Laws and Regulations

Each Party shall comply with all federal, state, and local statutes, regulations, rules, ordinances, judicial decisions, and administrative rulings applicable to its performance under this Agreement.

11. Confidential Information

11.1 Any information such as specifications, drawings, sketches, business information, forecasts, models, samples, data, computer programs and other software, and documentation of one Party (a Disclosing Party) that is furnished or made available or otherwise disclosed to the other Party or any of its employees, contractors, or agents (its "Representatives" and with a Party, a "Receiving Party") pursuant to this Agreement ("Proprietary Information") shall be deemed the property of the Disclosing Party. Proprietary Information, if written, shall be clearly and conspicuously marked "Confidential" or "Proprietary" or other similar

notice, and, if oral or visual, shall be confirmed in writing as confidential by the Disclosing Party to the Receiving Party within ten (10) days after disclosure. Unless Proprietary Information was previously known by the Receiving Party free of any obligation to keep it confidential, or has been or is subsequently made public by an act not attributable to the Receiving Party, or is explicitly agreed in writing not to be regarded as confidential, such information: (i) shall be held in confidence by each Receiving Party; (ii) shall be disclosed to only those persons who have a need for it in connection with the provision of services required to fulfill this Agreement and shall be used by those persons only for such purposes; and (iii) may be used for other purposes only upon such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed to in advance of such use in writing by the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, a Receiving Party shall be entitled to disclose or provide Proprietary Information as required by any governmental authority or applicable law, upon advice of counsel, only in accordance with Section 11.2 of this Agreement.

- 11.2 If any Receiving Party is required by any governmental authority, or by applicable law, to disclose any Proprietary Information, then such Receiving Party shall provide the Disclosing Party with written notice of such requirement as soon as possible and prior to such disclosure. The Disclosing Party may then seek appropriate protective relief from all or part of such requirement. The Receiving Party shall use all commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Disclosing Party in attempting to obtain any protective relief that such Disclosing Party chooses to obtain.
- 11.3 In the event of the expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason whatsoever, each Party shall return to the other Party or destroy all Proprietary Information and other documents, work papers and other material (including all copies thereof) obtained from the other Party in connection with this Agreement and shall use all reasonable efforts, including instructing its employees and others who have had access to such information, to keep confidential and not to use any such information, unless such information is now, or is hereafter disclosed, through no act, omission or fault of such Party, in any manner making it available to the general public.

12. Fraud

Neither Party shall bear responsibility for, nor be required to make adjustments to the other Party's account in cases of fraud by the other Party's end-users or on the other Party's end-user customer accounts. The Parties agree to reasonably cooperate with each other to detect, investigate, and prevent fraud and to reasonably cooperate with law enforcement investigations concerning fraudulent use of the other Party's services or network. The Parties' fraud minimization procedures are to be cost effective and implemented so as not to unduly burden or harm one Party as compared to the other.

13. Dispute Resolution

The Parties desire to resolve disputes arising out of or relating to this Agreement without, to the extent possible, litigation. Accordingly, except for action seeking a temporary restraining order or an injunction related to the purposes of this Agreement, or suit to compel compliance with this dispute resolution process, the Parties agree to use the following dispute resolution procedures with respect to any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach.

13.1 Informal Resolution of Disputes.

At the written request of a Party, each Party will appoint a knowledgeable, responsible representative, empowered to resolve such dispute, to meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement. The Parties intend that these negotiations be conducted by non-legal, business representatives. The location, format, frequency, duration, and conclusion of these discussions shall be left to the discretion of the representatives. Upon agreement, the representatives may utilize other alternative dispute resolution procedures such as mediation to assist in the negotiations. Discussions and correspondence among the representatives for purposes of these negotiations shall be treated as Confidential Information developed for purposes of settlement, exempt from discovery, and shall not be admissible in the arbitration described below or in any lawsuit without the concurrence of all Parties. Documents identified in or provided with such communications, which are not prepared for purposes of the negotiations, are not so exempted and may, if otherwise discoverable, be discovered or otherwise admissible, be admitted in evidence, in the arbitration or lawsuit.

13.2 Formal Dispute Resolution.

If negotiations fail to produce an agreeable resolution within ninety (90) days, then either Party may proceed with any remedy available to it pursuant to law, equity or agency mechanisms; provided, that upon mutual agreement of the Parties such disputes may also be submitted to binding arbitration. In the case of an arbitration, each Party shall bear its own costs. The Parties shall equally split the fees of any mutually agreed upon arbitration procedure and the associated arbitrator.

13.3 Continuous Service.

The Parties shall continue providing existing services to each other during the pendency of any dispute resolution procedure (other than a dispute related to payment for service), and the Parties shall continue to perform their payment obligations including making payments in accordance with this Agreement.

14. Entire Agreement

This Agreement and applicable attachments, constitute the entire agreement of the Parties pertaining to the subject matter of this Agreement and supersede all prior agreements, negotiations, proposals, and representations, whether written or oral, and all contemporaneous oral agreements, negotiations, proposals, and representations concerning such subject matter. No representations, understandings, agreements, or warranties, expressed or implied have been made or relied upon in the making of this Agreement other than those specifically set forth herein. In the event there is a conflict between any term of this Agreement, the provisions shall be construed to give the greatest possible effect to the intent of this Agreement.

15. Expenses

Except as specifically set out in this Agreement, each Party shall be solely responsible for its own expenses involved in all activities related to the subject of this Agreement.

16. Force Majeure

Neither Party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Agreement from any cause beyond its control and without its fault or negligence including, without limitation, acts of nature, acts of civil or military authority, government regulations, embargoes, epidemics, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, floods, equipment failure, power blackouts, volcanic action, other major environmental disturbances, unusually severe weather conditions, inability to secure products or services of other persons or transportation facilities or acts or omissions of transportation carriers (collectively, a "Force Majeure Event"). If any Force Majeure condition occurs, the Party delayed or unable to perform shall give immediate notice to the other Party and shall take all reasonable steps to correct the Force Majeure condition. During the pendency of the Force Majeure, the duties of the Parties under this Agreement affected by the Force Majeure condition shall be abated and shall resume without liability thereafter.

17. Good Faith Performance

In the performance of their obligations the Parties, shall act in good faith under this Agreement. In situations in which notice, consent, approval, or similar action by a Party is permitted or required by any provision of this Agreement, such action shall not be conditional, unreasonably withheld, or delayed.

18. Governing Law

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of South Carolina without regard to its conflict of laws principles and, when applicable, in accordance with the requirements of the Act and the FCC's implementing regulations.

19. Headings

The headings in this Agreement are inserted for convenience and identification only and shall not be considered in the interpretation of this Agreement.

20. Independent Contractor Relationship

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement, neither this Agreement, nor any actions taken by CLEC or ILEC in compliance with this Agreement, shall be deemed to create an agency or joint venture relationship between CLEC and ILEC, or any relationship other than that of co-carriers. Neither this Agreement, nor any actions taken by CLEC or ILEC in compliance with this Agreement, shall create a contractual, agency, or any other type of relationship or third party liability between CLEC and ILEC End Users Customers or others.

21. Law Enforcement Interface

21.1 With respect to requests for call content interception or call information interception directed at CLEC's End User Customer, ILEC will have no direct involvement in law enforcement interface. In the event a Party receives a law enforcement surveillance request for an end-user of the other Party, the Party initially contacted shall direct the agency to the other Party.

21.2 Notwithstanding 21.1, the Parties agree to work jointly in security matters to support law enforcement agency requirements for call content interception or call information interception.

22. Liability and Indemnity

22.1 DISCLAIMER

EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED TO THE CONTRARY IN THIS AGREEMENT, EACH PARTY MAKES NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES TO THE OTHER PARTY CONCERNING THE SPECIFIC QUALITY OF ANY SERVICES OR FACILITIES IT PROVIDES UNDER THIS AGREEMENT. EACH PARTY DISCLAIMS, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY WARRANTY OR GUARANTEE OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, ARISING FROM COURSE OF PERFORMANCE, COURSE OF DEALING, OR FROM USAGES OF TRADE.

22.2 Indemnification

22.2.1 Each Party (the "Indemnifying Party") shall indemnify and hold harmless the other Party ("Indemnified Party") from and against loss, cost, claim liability, damage, and expense (including reasonable attorney's fees) to customers and other third parties for:

- (1) damage to tangible personal property or for personal injury proximately caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the Indemnifying Party, its employees, agents or contractors;
- (2) claims for libel, slander, or infringement of copyright arising from the material transmitted over the Indemnified Party's facilities arising from the Indemnifying Party's own communications; and
- (3) claims for infringement of patents arising from combining the Indemnified Party's facilities or services with, or the using of the Indemnified Party's services or facilities in connection with, facilities of the Indemnifying Party.

Notwithstanding this indemnification provision or any other provision in the Agreement, neither Party, nor its parent, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, or employees, shall be liable to the other for Consequential Damages as defined in Section 22.3.3 of this Agreement.

22.2.2 The Indemnified Party will notify the Indemnifying Party promptly in writing of any claims, lawsuits, or demands by customers or other third parties for which the Indemnified Party alleges that the Indemnifying Party is responsible under this Section, and, if requested by the Indemnifying Party, will tender the defense of such claim, lawsuit or demand.

(1) In the event the Indemnifying Party does not promptly assume or diligently pursue the defense of the tendered action, then the Indemnified Party may proceed to defend or settle said action and the Indemnifying Party shall hold harmless the Indemnified Party from any loss, cost liability, damage and expense.

(2) In the event the Party otherwise entitled to indemnification from the other elects to decline such indemnification, then the Party making such an election may, at its own expense, assume defense and settlement of the claim, lawsuit or demand.

(3) The Parties will cooperate in every reasonable manner with the defense or settlement of any claim, demand, or lawsuit.

22.3 Limitation of Liability

22.3.1 No liability shall attach to either Party, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, employees, officers, directors, or partners for damages arising from errors, mistakes, omissions, interruptions, or delays in the course of establishing, furnishing, rearranging, moving, terminating, changing, or providing or failing to provide services or facilities (including the obtaining or furnishing of information with respect thereof or with respect to users of the services or facilities) in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

22.3.2 Except as otherwise provided in Section 22, no Party shall be liable to the other Party for any loss, defect or equipment failure caused by the conduct of the first Party, its agents, servants, contractors or others acting in aid or concert with that Party, except in the case of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

22.3.3 In no event shall either Party have any liability whatsoever to the other Party for any indirect, special, consequential, incidental or punitive damages, including, but not limited to, loss of anticipated profits or revenues or other economic loss in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted or done hereunder (collectively, "Consequential Damages"), even if the other Party has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

22.4 Intellectual Property

Except as provided by Applicable Law, neither Party shall have any obligation to defend, indemnify or hold harmless, or acquire any license or right for the benefit of, or owe any other obligation or have any liability to, the other based on or arising from any claim, demand, or proceeding by any third party alleging or asserting that the use of any circuit, apparatus, or system, or the use of any software, or the performance of any service or method, or the provision or use of any facilities by either Party under this Agreement constitutes direct or contributory infringement, or misuse or misappropriation of any patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret, or any other proprietary or intellectual property right of any third party.

23. Joint Work Product

This Agreement is the joint work product of the Parties, has been negotiated by the Parties, and shall be fairly interpreted in accordance with its terms. In the event of any ambiguities, no inferences shall be drawn against either Party.

24. Multiple Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which shall together constitute one and the same document.

25. No Third Party Beneficiaries

This Agreement is for the sole benefit of the Parties and their permitted assigns, and nothing herein expressed or implied shall create or be construed to create any third-party beneficiary rights hereunder. Except for provisions herein expressly authorizing a Party to act for another, nothing in this Agreement shall constitute a party as a legal representative or agent of the other Party; nor shall a Party have the right or authority to assume, create or incur any liability or any obligation of any kind, expressed or implied, against, in the name of, or on behalf of the other Party, unless otherwise expressly permitted by such other Party. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, no party undertakes to perform any obligation of the other Party, whether regulatory or contractual, or to assume any responsibility for the management of the other Party's business.

26. Notices

Notices given by one Party to the other Party under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be: (i) delivered personally; (ii) delivered by express delivery service; (iii) mailed, certified mail, return receipt to the following addresses of the Parties; or (iv) delivered via electronic mail:

To: **ILEC**

To: **CLEC**

Bill Oglesby, CFO P.O. Box 5986 Hilton Head, SC 29938	Director, Interconnection Management 9300 Metcalf Mailstop: KSOPKB0402-3670 Overland Park, KS 66212
With a copy to: McNair Law Firm, P.A. Post Office Box 11390 Columbia, SC 29211 Attn: Margaret M. Fox	With a copy to: Senior Attorney Embarq 3065 Cumberland Circle SE Cumberland Center 1 Atlanta, GA 30339-3166

Or to such other address as either Party shall designate by proper notice. Notices will be deemed given as of the earlier of: (i) the date of actual receipt; (ii) the next business day when notice is sent *via* overnight express mail or personal delivery; or (iii) three (3) days after mailing in the case of certified U.S. mail.

27. Impairment of Service

The characteristics and methods of operation of a Party's circuits, facilities or equipment connected with the services, facilities or equipment of the other Party pursuant to this Agreement shall not interfere with or impair service of either Party affiliated companies, or connecting and concurring carriers involved in the Parties' services, cause damage to either Party's plant, violate any applicable law or regulation regarding the invasion of privacy of any communications carried over either Parties' facilities or create hazards to the employees of either Party or to the public (each hereinafter referred to as an "Impairment of Service").

28. Change in Law

28.1 The Parties enter into this Agreement without prejudice to any positions they have taken previously, or may take in the future in any legislative, regulatory, judicial or other public forum addressing any matters, including matters related specifically to this Agreement, or other types of arrangements prescribed in this Agreement; provided, however, that this Agreement shall remain binding on the Parties.

28.2 The Parties acknowledge that the respective rights and obligations of each Party as set forth in this Agreement are based on the text of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by the FCC and the Commission as of the Effective Date ("Applicable Rules"). In the event of any amendment to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, any effective legislative action or any effective, final regulatory or judicial order, rule, regulation, arbitration award, dispute resolution procedures under this Agreement or other legal action purporting to apply the provisions of the Telecommunications Act to the Parties or in which the FCC or the Commission makes a generic determination that is generally applicable which revises, modifies or reverses the Applicable Rules (individually and collectively, Amended Rules), either Party may, to the extent permitted or required, by providing written notice to the other party, require that the affected provisions of this Agreement be renegotiated in good faith and this Agreement shall be amended accordingly to reflect the pricing, terms and conditions of each such Amended Rule relating to any of the provisions in this Agreement.

29. Regulatory Approval

The Parties understand and agree that this Agreement will be filed with the Commission, and to the extent required by FCC rules may thereafter be filed with the FCC. Each Party covenants and agrees to fully support approval of this Agreement by the Commission. The Parties, however, reserve the right to seek regulatory relief and otherwise seek redress from each other regarding performance and implementation of this Agreement. In the event the Commission rejects this Agreement in whole or in part, the Parties agree to meet and negotiate in good faith to arrive at a mutually-acceptable modification of the rejected portion(s).

30. Taxes and Fees

Each Party purchasing services hereunder shall pay or otherwise be responsible for all federal, state, or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts, transaction or similar taxes, fees or surcharges levied against or upon such purchasing Party (or the providing Party when such providing Party is permitted to pass along to the purchasing Party such taxes, fees or surcharges), except for any tax on either Party's corporate existence, status or income. Whenever possible, these amounts shall be billed as a separate item on the invoice. To the extent a sale is claimed to be for resale tax exemption, the purchasing Party shall furnish the providing Party a proper resale tax exemption certificate as authorized or required by statute or regulation by the jurisdiction providing said resale tax exemption. Failure to provide in a timely manner such sale for resale tax exemption certificate will result in no exemption being available to the purchasing Party.

31. Trademarks and Trade Names

No patent, copyright, trademark or other proprietary right is licensed, granted, or otherwise transferred by this Agreement. Each Party is strictly prohibited from any use, including, but not limited to, in sales, in marketing or in advertising of telecommunications services, of any name, copyrighted material, service mark, or trademark of the other Party.

32. Non-Waiver

Failure of either Party to insist on the performance of any term or condition of this Agreement or to exercise any right or privilege hereunder shall not be construed as a continuing or future waiver of such term, condition, right or privilege.

33. Bankruptcy

If any voluntary or involuntary petition or similar pleading under any Section or Sections of any bankruptcy act shall be filed by or against a Party, or any voluntary or involuntary proceeding in any court or tribunal shall be instituted to declare the Party insolvent or unable to pay the Party's debts, or the Party makes an assignment for the benefit of its creditors, or a trustee or receiver is appointed for the Party or for the major part of the Party's property, the other Party may, if that Party so elects but not otherwise, and with or without notice of such election or other action by that Party, forthwith terminate this Agreement.

34. Reference Documents

Following execution of this Agreement, each Party will provide the other with any relevant procedures for working with and interacting with the other Party. Such procedures may be in the form of company handbooks, written documentation, website information or similar references. The Parties shall abide by each other's procedures except when doing so (a) conflicts with contract terms; or (b) conflicts with applicable law. The Parties will seek clarification if such a conflict is perceived to exist.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement the day and year written below.


ILEC

By:

Name :

Title:

Date:


Robert J. LaBonte
VP & CEO


CLEC

By:

Name:

Title:

Date:


William E. Cheek
President, Wholesale Markets
8/2/06

GLOSSARY

1. General Rule

Special meanings are given to common words in the telecommunications industry, and coined words and acronyms are common in the custom and usage in the industry. Words used in this Agreement are to be understood according to the custom and usage of the telecommunications industry, as an exception to the general rule of contract interpretation that words are to be understood in their ordinary and popular sense. In addition to this rule of interpretation, the following terms used in this Agreement shall have the meanings as specified below:

2. Definitions

2.1 ACCESS SERVICE REQUEST (ASR).

An industry standard form, which contains data elements and usage rules used by the Parties to add, establish, change or disconnect services or trunks for the purposes of interconnection.

2.2 ACT.

The Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. §151 et. seq.), as from time to time amended (including, without limitation by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Public Law 104-104 of the 104th United States Congress effective February 8, 1996), and as further interpreted in the duly authorized and effective rules and regulations of the FCC or the Commission.

2.3 AFFILIATE.

Shall have the meaning as set forth in the Act.

2.4 APPLICABLE LAW.

All effective laws, government regulations and orders, applicable to each Party's performance of its obligations under this Agreement.

2.5 AUTOMATIC NUMBER IDENTIFICATION (ANI).

The signaling parameter which refers to the number transmitted through the network identifying the calling number of the calling Party.

2.6 CALLING PARTY NUMBER (CPN).

A Signaling System 7 (SS7) parameter that identifies the calling party's telephone number.

2.7 CENTRAL OFFICE.

A local switching system for connecting lines to lines, lines to trunks, or trunks to trunks for the purpose of originating/terminating calls over the public switched telephone network. A single Central Office may handle several Central Office codes ("NXX"). Sometimes this term is used to refer to a telephone company building in which switching systems and telephone equipment are installed.

2.8 CENTRAL OFFICE SWITCH.

A switch used to provide Telecommunications Services including, but not limited to, an End Office Switch or a Tandem Switch. A Central Office Switch may also be employed as combination End Office / Tandem Office Switch.

2.9 COMMISSION.

Means the South Carolina Public Service Commission.

2.10 COMMON CHANNEL SIGNALING (CCS).

A method of transmitting call set-up and network-control data over a digital signaling network separate from the public switched telephone network facilities that carries the actual voice or data content of the call.

2.11 COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIER (CLEC).

Any corporation or other person legally able to provide Local Exchange Service in competition with an ILEC.

2.12 CUSTOMER PROPRIETARY NETWORK INFORMATION (CPNI).

Shall have the meaning as set forth in Section 222 of the Act, 47 U.S.C. § 222.

2.13 DIGITAL SIGNAL LEVEL 1 (DS1).

The 1.544 Mbps first-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.

2.14 DIGITAL SIGNAL LEVEL 3 (DS3).

The 44.736 Mbps third-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.

2.15 DIRECT INTERCONNECTION FACILITIES.

Dedicated transport facilities installed between a CLEC Switch and a mutually-agreed upon point of interconnection within the ILEC network.

2.16 END OFFICE SWITCH OR END OFFICE.

End Office Switch is a switch in which End-User Customer station loops are terminated for connection to trunks. The End-User Customer receives terminating, switching, signaling, transmission, and related functions for a defined geographic area by means of an End Office Switch.

2.17 END-USER CUSTOMER.

A retail residence or business end-user subscriber to Telephone Exchange Services provided directly by either of the Parties.

2.18 END USER CUSTOMER LOCATION.

The physical location of the premise where an End User Customer makes use of Telephone Exchange Service.

2.19 EXCHANGE AREA.

Means the geographic area that has been defined by the Commission for the provision of Telephone Exchange Service.

2.20 FCC.

The Federal Communications Commission.

2.21 INCUMBENT LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIER (ILEC).

Shall have the meaning stated in the Act. For purposes of this Agreement, **Bluffton** is an ILEC.

2.22 INFORMATION SERVICE.

The term shall be as defined in the Act. (47 U.S.C. §3(20)).

2.23 INTEREXCHANGE CARRIER (IXC).

A Telecommunications Carrier that provides, directly or indirectly, InterLATA or IntraLATA telephone toll services.

2.24 INTERLATA TRAFFIC.

Telecommunications traffic that originates in one LATA and terminates in another LATA.

2.25 INTRALATA TRAFFIC.

Telecommunications traffic that originates and terminates in the same LATA.

2.26 INTERNET PROTOCOL CONNECTION (IPC).

The IPC is the physical location where end-user information is originated or terminated utilizing internet protocol.

2.27 ISDN USER PART (ISUP).

A part of the SS7 protocol that defines call setup messages and call takedown messages.

2.28 ISP-BOUND TRAFFIC.

ISP-Bound Traffic means traffic that originates from or is directed, either directly or indirectly, to or through an information service provider or Internet Service Provider (ISP) who is physically located in an exchange within the Local / EAS area of the originating End-User Customer. Traffic originated from, directed to or through an ISP physically located outside the originating End-User Customer's Local / EAS area will be considered switched toll traffic and subject to access charges.

2.29 JURISDICTIONAL INDICATOR PARAMETER (JIP).

JIP is a six-digit number which provides a unique identifier representing the originating carrier. JIP is defined in the National Interconnection Inter-operability Forum Reference Document ATIS-0300011.

2.30 LOCAL ACCESS AND TRANSPORT AREA (LATA).

Shall have the meaning set forth in the Act.

2.31 LINE INFORMATION DATABASE (LIDB).

One or all, as the context may require, of the Line Information Databases owned individually by ILEC and other entities which provide, among other things, calling card validation functionality for telephone line number cards issued by ILEC and other entities. A LIDB also contains validation data for collect and third number-billed calls; i.e., Billed Number Screening.

2.32 LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIER (LEC).

The term "local exchange carrier" means any company that is authorized by the state public utility commission to provide local exchange and exchange access services. Such term does not include a company to the extent the company is engaged in the provision of a commercial mobile service under section 332(c), except to the extent that the Commission finds that such service should be included in the definition of such term. 47 U.S.C. § 3(26).

2.33 LOCAL EXCHANGE ROUTING GUIDE (LERG).

The Telcordia Technologies reference customarily used to identify NPA/NXX routing and homing information, as well as network element and equipment designation.

2.34 LOCAL/EAS TRAFFIC.

Any call that originates from an End User Customer physically located in one exchange and terminates to an End User Customer physically located in either the same exchange, or other mandatory local calling area (e.g. EAS) associated with the originating End-User Customer's exchange as defined and specified in ILEC's tariff. As clarification of this definition and for reciprocal transport and termination compensation, Local/EAS Traffic does not include traffic that originates from or is directed to or through an ISP.

2.35 NEW SERVICE PROVIDER (NSP).

When an End-User Customer is changing its local exchange service from one provider to another, the NSP is the provider with whom the customer will reside at the completion of the change.

2.36 NORTH AMERICAN NUMBERING PLAN (NANP).

The system of telephone numbering employed in the United States, Canada, Bermuda, Puerto Rico and certain Caribbean islands. The NANP format is a 10-digit number that consists of a 3-digit NPA Code (commonly referred to as area code), followed by a 3-digit Central Office code and a 4-digit line number.

2.37 NUMBERING PLAN AREA (NPA).

Also sometimes referred to as an area code, is the first three-digit indicator of each 10-digit telephone number within the NANP. Each NPA contains 800 possible NXX Codes. There are two general categories of NPA, "Geographic NPAs" and "Non-Geographic NPAs". A Geographic NPA is associated with a defined geographic area, and all telephone numbers bearing such NPA are associated with services provided within that geographic area. A Non-Geographic NPA, also known as a "Service Access Code" or "SAC Code" is typically associated with a specialized Telecommunications Service that may be provided across multiple geographic NPA areas. 500, 700, 800, 888 and 900 are examples of Non-Geographic NPAs.

2.38 NXX, NXX CODE, CENTRAL OFFICE CODE OR CO CODE.

The three-digit switch entity indicator (i.e. the first three digits of a seven-digit telephone number). Each NXX Code contains 10,000 station numbers.

2.39 OLD SERVICE PROVIDER (OSP).

When an End-User Customer is changing its local exchange service from one provider to another, the OSP is the provider from whom the End-User Customer is disconnecting.

2.40 POINT OF INTERCONNECTION (POI).

The physical location(s) at which the Parties' networks meet for the purpose of exchanging Local/EAS Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic.

2.41 RATE CENTER AREA.

A Rate Center Area is a geographic location, which has been defined by the Commission as being associated with a particular NPA/NXX code, which has been assigned to an ILEC for its provision of Telephone Exchange Service. Rate Center Area is normally the same as the boundary of the ILEC Exchange Area as defined by the Commission.

2.42 RATE CENTER.

A Rate Center is the finite geographic point identified by a specific V&H coordinate which is used by the ILEC to measure, for billing purposes, distance-sensitive transmission services associated with the specific rate center; provided that a Rate Center cannot exceed the boundaries of the ILEC Exchange Area as defined by the Commission.

2.43 SIGNALING SYSTEM 7 (SS7).

The common channel out-of-band signaling protocol developed by the Consultative Committee for International Telephone and Telegraph (CCITT) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). ILEC and CLEC currently utilize this out-of-band signaling protocol.

2.44 SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE.

The offering of transmission and switching services for the purpose of the origination or termination of toll traffic. Switched Access Services include, but may not be limited to, Feature Group A, Feature Group B, Feature Group D, 700 access, 8XX access, and 900 access.

2.45 TANDEM SWITCH.

A switching entity that has billing and recording capabilities and is used to connect and switch trunk circuits between and among end office switches and between and among end office switches and carriers' aggregation points, points of termination, or points of presence, and to provide Switched Access Services.

2.46 TANDEM TRANSIT TRAFFIC OR TRANSIT TRAFFIC.

Local/EAS Traffic or ISP Bound Traffic that originates on one Party's network, and is transported through the other Party's Tandem to the Central Office of a third party CLEC, Interexchange Carrier, Commercial Mobile Radio Service ("CMRS") carrier, or other LEC, that subtends the relevant Party's Tandem to which CLEC delivers such traffic or Local/EAS Traffic or ISP Bound Traffic that originates on a third party CLEC, Commercial Mobile Radio Service ("CMRS") carrier, or other LEC's network and is transported through a Party's Tandem to the Central Office of the other Party that subtends the relevant Party's Tandem. Subtending Central Offices shall be determined in accordance with and as identified in the Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG"). Switched Access Service traffic is not Tandem Transit Traffic.

2.47 TARIFF.

Any applicable Federal or State tariff of a Party, as amended from time to time.

2.48 TELCORDIA TECHNOLOGIES.

Formerly known as Bell Communications Research, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). The organization conducts research and development projects for its owners, including development of new Telecommunications Services. Telcordia Technologies also provides generic requirements for the telecommunications industry for products, services and technologies.

2.49 TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER.

The term "telecommunications carrier" means any provider of telecommunications services, except that such term does not include aggregators of telecommunications services. A telecommunications carrier shall be treated as a common carrier under the Telecommunications Act only to the extent that it is engaged in providing telecommunications services.

2.50 TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE.

The term "telecommunications service" means the offering of telecommunications for a fee directly to the public, or to such classes of users as to be effectively available directly to the public, regardless of the facilities used.

2.51 TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRAFFIC.

“Telecommunications Traffic” means Telecommunications Traffic exchanged between a LEC and a telecommunications carrier other than a CMRS provider, except for telecommunications traffic that is interstate or intrastate exchange access, information access, or exchange services for such access.

2.52 TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SERVICE.

The term "telephone exchange service" shall have the meaning set forth in 47 U.S.C. Section 3 (47) of the Act.

2.53 VOICE OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL (VoIP) OR IP-ENABLED TRAFFIC.

VoIP means any IP-Enabled, real-time, multidirectional voice call, including, but not limited to, service that mimics traditional telephony. VoIP or IP-Enabled Traffic includes:

- (i) Voice traffic originating at an Internet Protocol Connection (IPC), and which terminates on the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN);
and
- (ii) Voice traffic originated on the PSTN, and which terminates at IPC.

Interconnection Attachment

1. General

- 1.1 This Interconnection Attachment sets forth specific terms and conditions for network interconnection arrangements between ILEC and CLEC for the purpose of the exchange of Local/EAS and ISP-Bound Traffic that is originated by an End-User Customer of one Party and is terminated to an End-User Customer of the other Party, where each Party directly provides Telephone Exchange Service to its End-User Customers physically located in the Exchange Area. In addition, Transit traffic between two local carriers subtending one Party's Tandem is addressed in this Attachment.
- 1.2 This Attachment also describes the physical architecture for the interconnection of the Parties facilities and equipment for the transmission and routing of Telecommunications Traffic between the respective End-User Customers of the Parties pursuant to the Act and the compensation for such facilities and traffic exchanged.
- 1.3 Rate Arbitrage
 - 1.3.1 Each Party agrees that it will not knowingly provision any of its services or the services of a third party in a manner that permits the circumvention of applicable switched access charges by the other Party ("Rate Arbitrage") and/or the utilization of the physical connecting arrangements described in this Agreement to permit the delivery to the other Party of traffic not covered under this Agreement through the POI on local interconnection trunks. This Rate Arbitrage includes, but is not limited to, third-party carriers, traffic aggregators, and resellers.
 - 1.3.2 If any Rate Arbitrage and/or delivery of traffic not covered under this Agreement through the local interconnection trunks is identified, the Party causing such Rate Arbitrage also agrees to take all reasonable steps to terminate and/or reroute any service that is permitting any of that Party's End-User Customers or any entity to conduct Rate Arbitrage or that permits the End-User Customer or any entity to utilize the POI for the delivery or receipt of such excluded traffic through the local interconnection trunks. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if any Party is found to be in violation of this Section, until such time as the Rate Arbitrage or incorrect routing of traffic is resolved, that Party shall pay applicable access charges to the other Party.
 - 1.3.3 If either Party suspects Rate Arbitrage from the other Party, the Party suspecting arbitrage ("Initiating Party") shall have the right to audit the other Party's (Audited Party) records to ensure that no Rate Arbitrage and/or the delivery of traffic not covered under this Agreement is taking place. The Initiating Party is responsible for the expense of the audit, except that if a significant violation is found the Audited Party will pay for the audit. Both Parties shall cooperate in providing records required to conduct such audits. Upon request by Initiating Party the Audited Party

shall assist the Initiating Party in obtaining any applicable records of any customer or other third party utilizing the interconnection established under this Agreement. The Initiating Party shall have the right to conduct additional audit(s) if the preceding audit disclosed such Rate Arbitrage provided, however, that neither Party shall request an audit more frequently than is commercially reasonable once per calendar year

2. Physical Connection

- 2.1 The Parties shall exchange Local/EAS Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic over Direct Interconnection Facilities between their networks. The Parties agree to physically connect their respective networks so as to exchange such Local/EAS and ISP-Bound Traffic, with the Point of Interconnection (POI) determined by CLEC at a technically feasible point on ILEC's network. CLEC intends to establish a POI at ILEC's switch in Pritchardville.
- 2.2 Direct Interconnection Facilities between the Parties' networks shall be provisioned as two-way interconnection trunks. The supervisory signaling specifications, and the applicable network channel interface codes for the dedicated interconnection facilities, are the same as those used for Feature Group D Switched Access Service, as described in ILEC's applicable Switched Access Services tariff.
- 2.3 ILEC and CLEC may utilize existing and new Direct Interconnection Facilities for the mutual exchange of Local/EAS, ISP-Bound Traffic, Transit and toll traffic. Local/EAS Traffic, ISP-Bound Traffic and toll traffic will be provisioned on separate trunk groups within the same facility. The charges for usage and underlying trunks shall be subject to the appropriate compensation based on jurisdiction and the cost-sharing provisions as provided in Section 3.1.4 of this Attachment.
- 2.4 Physical Interconnection
 - 2.4.1 Trunk Types
 - 2.4.1.1 Local Interconnection Trunks
 - 2.4.1.1.1 The Parties will establish separate trunk groups for the exchange of Local/EAS Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic ("Interconnection Trunks") on the Direct Interconnection Facility. The Parties agree that all Local/EAS and ISP-Bound Traffic exchanged between them will be on trunks exclusively dedicated to such traffic. Neither Party will terminate IntraLATA or InterLATA toll traffic or originate untranslated traffic to service codes (e.g. 800,888) over Local Interconnection Trunks.
 - 2.4.1.1.2 If the Parties' originated Local/EAS Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic is exchanged utilizing the same two-way Interconnection Trunk, both parties will mutually

coordinate the provisioning and quantity of trunks to be utilized in this arrangement

2.4.1.2 Access Trunks

2.4.1.2.1 Toll traffic shall not be routed on the Local Interconnection Trunks. Separate trunk groups for such Toll and Access Traffic must be established on the Direct Interconnection Facility. Standard access compensation arrangements from the ILECs respective tariffs will apply to the Access Trunks.

2.4.2 Fiber Meet Point

2.4.2.1 Fiber Meet Point is an interconnection arrangement whereby the Parties physically interconnect their networks via an optical fiber interface (as opposed to an electrical interface) at a mutually agreed upon interconnection point. The location where one Party's facilities, provisioning, and maintenance responsibility begins and the other Party's responsibility ends is at the POI.

2.4.2.2 If CLEC elects to interconnect with ILEC pursuant to a Fiber Meet Point, CLEC and ILEC shall jointly engineer and operate a Synchronous Optical Network ("SONET") transmission system. The Parties shall interconnect their transmission and routing of Local/EAS Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic via a local channel facility at the DS1 or DS3 level. The Parties shall work jointly to determine the specific transmission system. CLEC's SONET transmission equipment must be compatible with ILEC's equipment.

2.4.2.3 CLEC shall, wholly at its own expense, procure, install and maintain the agreed-upon SONET equipment in the CLEC Central Office or equipment site.

2.4.2.4 The Parties shall designate a POI within the borders of the ILEC Exchange Area as a Fiber Meet Point, and ILEC shall make all necessary preparations to receive, and to allow and enable CLEC to deliver fiber optic facilities into the POI with sufficient spare length to reach the fusion splice point at the POI.

2.4.2.5 CLEC shall deliver and maintain its fiber strands wholly at its own expense. Upon request by CLEC, ILEC shall allow CLEC access to the Fiber Meet Point entry point for maintenance purposes as promptly as possible, and at least at parity with that ILEC provides itself or an affiliate, whichever is shorter.

2.4.2.6 The Parties shall jointly coordinate and undertake maintenance of the SONET transmission system. Each Party shall be responsible for maintaining the components of their own SONET transmission system.

2.4.2.7 Each Party will be responsible for providing its own transport facilities to the Fiber Meet Point.

2.5 Facility Sizing:

The Parties will mutually agree on the appropriate sizing of the transport facilities. The capacity of transport facilities provided by each Party will be based on mutual forecasts and sound engineering practice, as mutually agreed to by the Parties. CLEC will order trunks in the agreed-upon quantities via an Access Service Request.

2.6 If CLEC's request requires ILEC to build new facilities (e.g. installing new fiber) that are to be used for CLEC services and not otherwise required for ILEC's operations, CLEC will bear the cost of construction. Payment terms for such costs will be negotiated between the Parties on an individual case basis. No Party will construct facilities that require the other Party to build unnecessary facilities.

2.7 CLEC shall be responsible for establishing 911 trunks with the designated 911 vendor. CLEC may purchase transport for such 911 trunks from ILEC subject to applicable tariff rates.

2.8 Interface Types:

If the POI has an electrical interface, the interface will be DS1 or DS3 as mutually agreed upon by the Parties. When a DS3 interface is agreed to by the Parties, ILEC will provide any multiplexing required for DS1 facilities or trunking at its end and CLEC will provide any DS1 multiplexing required for facilities or trunking at its end.

2.9 Programming:

It shall be the responsibility of each Party to program and update its own switches and network systems pursuant to the LERG.

2.10 Equipment Additions:

Where additional equipment is required, such equipment will be obtained, engineered, and installed on the same basis and with the same intervals as any similar growth job for the Parties' internal customer demand.

3. Compensation

3.1 Facilities Compensation

3.1.1 For Direct Interconnection Facilities, CLEC may utilize a Fiber Meet Point, lease facilities from ILEC or lease facilities from a third party to reach the POI. If CLEC utilizes a Fiber Meet Point or leases facilities from a third party, CLEC shall bear the full cost of the facility to the POI.

3.1.2 If CLEC chooses to lease Direct Interconnection Facilities from the ILEC to reach the POI, CLEC shall compensate ILEC for such leased Direct Interconnection Facilities used for the transmission and routing of telephone exchange service and exchange access service between the

Parties and to interconnect with ILEC's network at the rates contained in the Pricing Attachment subject to the cost-sharing provisions in Section 3.1.4 of this Attachment.

- 3.1.3 Each Party shall be responsible for the cost of Direct Interconnection Facilities on its side of the POI subject to the cost-sharing provisions as described in Section 3.1.4 of this Attachment.
- 3.1.4 Where a Direct Interconnection Facility is used for two-way traffic exchanged between the Parties as described in Sections 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 above, the charges for such facility provided and billed by ILEC shall be shared based on each Party's proportion of originating Local/EAS Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic to total traffic exchanged between the Parties over such facility (total includes Transit Traffic). This percentage is referred to as the Shared Facility Factor and is listed below. The charges for such Direct Interconnection Facility shall be reduced by ILEC by applying the Shared Facility Factor. The Parties agree to review these percentages on a periodic basis and, if warranted by the actual usage, revise the Shared Facility Factor appropriately. To the extent the Parties utilize the two-way Direct Interconnection Facility to exchange combined local/EAS Traffic, ISP-Bound Traffic and toll traffic, the portion of the Direct Interconnection Facility used for the exchange of toll traffic shall be the responsibility of CLEC and shall not be subject such cost sharing obligations.

a) ILEC-Shared Facility Factor	50%
b) CLEC-Shared Facility Factor	50%

3.2 Traffic Termination Compensation

- 3.2.1 This Section 3.2 is expressly limited to the transport and termination of Local/EAS and ISP-Bound Traffic originated by and terminated to End-User Customers of the Parties in this Agreement. Both Parties agree that compensation for Local/EAS Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic shall be in the form of the mutual exchange of services provided by the other Party with no minute of use billing related to exchange of such traffic issued by either Party ("Bill and Keep") except as otherwise provided in Section 3.2.1.1. Compensation for toll traffic will be in accordance with each Party's access tariffs.
 - 3.2.1.1 Bill and Keep will remain applicable if terminating traffic between the Parties is balanced within 10 percent of balanced. Either Party can cancel the Bill and Keep compensation arrangement if traffic volumes are out of balance as stated above for three consecutive months. Formal notification of the cancellation must be provided in writing with 30 days notice. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, the Parties may continue the Bill and Keep compensation arrangement by mutual agreement. If either Party does deliver such written notice canceling the Bill and Keep arrangement, the Parties will negotiate an amendment to this

Agreement under applicable law reflecting charges to be assessed by each Party for terminating Local Traffic.

3.2.2 For Transit Traffic, the originating Party will be responsible for all transit charges. The Party providing the transiting switching function shall bill the originating Party for its originated Transit Traffic that is routed to the transiting provider for delivery to a third party, where the switch homing arrangement for NPA/NXX is designated as the transiting Party's tandem switch per the Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG). The rate for Transit Traffic is listed in the Pricing Attachment of this Agreement. CLEC is responsible for negotiating any necessary interconnection arrangements directly with the third party. ILEC will not be responsible for any reciprocal compensation payments to CLEC for Transit Traffic. Any Transit Traffic that is toll shall be governed by the ILEC's access tariffs.

3.3 Jurisdiction of IP-Enabled Traffic is determined by the physical location of the End-User Customer originating IP-Enabled Traffic, which is the geographical location of the actual Internet Protocol Connection (IPC), not the location where the call enters the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN). Signaling information associated with IP-Enabled Voice Traffic must comply with Section 5 of this Interconnection Attachment.

4. Routing

4.1 Both Parties acknowledge that traffic will be routed in accordance with Telcordia Traffic Routing Administration (TRA) instructions.

4.2 Both Parties shall adhere to the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) guidelines. The Parties agree that if a Party assigns telephone numbers from an NPA/NXX to an End-User Customer physically located outside the Rate Center Area with which the NPA/NXX is associated, the physical location of the calling and called End-User Customers shall be used to determine the jurisdiction of the Telecommunications Traffic for purposes of determining the appropriate compensation mechanism. Further, in order for End-User Customers to be considered physically located in the Rate Center such End-User Customers must have valid E911 service with a corresponding record in the serving ALI Database.

4.3 Neither Party shall route un-translated traffic to service codes (e.g. 800, 888, 900) over the Local Interconnection Trunks.

4.4 N11 Codes: Neither Party shall route N11 codes (e.g., 411, 611, 711, and 911) over dedicated facilities.

5. Signaling

5.1 Accurate Calling Party Number ("CPN") associated with the End-User Customer originating the call must be provided. Accurate CPN is:

5.1.1 CPN that is a dialable working telephone number, that when dialed, will reach the End-User Customer to whom it is assigned, at that End-User Customer's Location.

- 5.1.2 CPN that has not been altered.
 - 5.1.3 CPN that is not a charged party number.
 - 5.1.4 CPN that follows the North American Numbering Plan Standards and can be identified in numbering databases and the LERG as an active number.
 - 5.1.5 CPN that is assigned to an active End-User Customer.
 - 5.1.6 CPN that is associated with the Rate Center of the specific End-User Customer Location.
- 5.2 The originating Party will provide to the other Party, upon request, information to demonstrate that the originating Party's portion of traffic without CPN or Jurisdictional Indicator Parameter ("JIP") does not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total Local/EAS and ISP Bound (non-transit) traffic delivered to the other Party. The Parties will coordinate and exchange data as necessary to determine the cause of the CPN or JIP failure and to assist in its correction. If either Party fails to provide accurate CPN and JIP (*i.e.* valid originating information) on at least ninety percent (90%) of its total originating Local/EAS Traffic and ISP Bound Traffic, then traffic sent to the other Party without valid originating information will be handled in the following manner. If the unidentified traffic is less than 10%, the unidentified traffic will be treated as having the same jurisdictional ratio as the identified traffic. If the unidentified traffic exceeds ten percent (10%) of the total traffic, all the unidentified traffic shall be billed at a rate equal to ILEC's applicable access charges.
- 5.3 Signaling:
- The Parties will connect their networks using SS7 signaling as defined in applicable industry standards including ISDN User Part ("ISUP") for trunk signaling and Transaction Capabilities Application Part ("TCAP") for common channel signaling-based features in the connection of their networks. CPN shall be available for at least 90% of the calls. Signaling information shall be shared between the Parties at no charge to either Party.
- 5.4 Signaling Parameters:
- Subject to Section 5.2, ILEC and CLEC are required to provide each other with the proper signaling information (e.g. originating accurate CPN, JIP, and destination called party number, etc.) to enable each Party to issue bills in an accurate and timely fashion. All Common Channel Signaling (CCS) signaling parameters will be provided including CPN, JIP, Originating Line Information Parameter (OLIP) on calls to 8XX telephone numbers, Calling Party Category, Charge Number, etc. All privacy indicators will be honored. One JIP per switch per LATA per state will be provided. In addition, each Party agrees that it is responsible for ensuring that all CCS signaling parameters are accurate and it shall not strip, alter, modify, add, delete, change, or incorrectly assign any CPN or JIP. CPN shall, at a minimum, include information that accurately reflects the physical location of the End-User Customer that originated and/or dialed the call.

5.5 Grade of Service:

Each Party will provision their network to provide a designed blocking objective of a P.01.

6. Network Management:

6.1 Protective Controls:

Either Party may use protective network traffic management controls such as 7-digit and 10-digit code gaps on traffic destined to each Party's network, when required to protect the public switched network from congestion or failure, or focused overload. CLEC and ILEC will immediately notify each other of any protective control action planned or executed.

6.2 Mass Calling:

Both Parties will cooperate and share pre-planning information regarding cross-network call-ins expected to generate large or focused temporary increases in call volumes. The Parties agree that the promotion of mass calling services is not in the best interest of either Party. If one Party's network is burdened repeatedly more than the other Party's network, the Parties will meet and discuss the cause and impact of such calling and will agree on how to equitably share the costs and revenues associated with the calls and on methods for managing the call volume.

6.3 Network Harm:

Neither Party will use any service related to or provided in this Agreement in any manner that interferes with third parties in the use of their service, prevents third parties from using their service, impairs the quality of service to other carriers or to either Party's Customers; causes electrical hazards to either Party's personnel, damage to either Party's equipment or malfunction of either Party's billing equipment (individually and collectively, "Network Harm"). If a Network Harm will occur, or if a Party reasonably determines that a Network Harm is imminent, such Party will, where practicable, notify the other Party that temporary discontinuance or refusal of service may be required, provided, however, wherever prior notice is not practicable, such Party may temporarily discontinue or refuse service forthwith, if such action is reasonable under the circumstances. In case of such temporary discontinuance or refusal, such Party will:

6.3.1 Promptly notify the other Party of such temporary discontinuance or refusal;

6.3.2 Afford the other Party the opportunity to correct the situation which gave rise to such temporary discontinuance or refusal; and

6.3.3 Inform the other Party of its right to bring a complaint to the Commission, FCC, or a court of competent jurisdiction.

Number Portability Attachment

1. Local Number Portability

- 1.1 The Parties will offer service provider local number portability (LNP) in accordance with the FCC rules and regulations. Service provider portability is the ability of users of Telecommunications Services to retain, at the same location, existing telecommunications numbers without impairment of quality, reliability, or convenience when switching from one telecommunications carrier to another. Under this arrangement, the new Telecommunications Service provider must directly provide Telephone Exchange Service or resell an end user local exchange service through a third party Telecommunications Service provider to the End User Customer porting the telephone number. The dial tone must be derived from a switching facility that denotes the switch is ready to receive dialed digits. In order for a port request to be valid, the End User Customer must retain their original number and be served directly by the same type of Telecommunications Service subscribed to prior to the port.
- 1.2 The Parties agree that the industry has established Local Routing Number (LRN) technology as the method by which LNP will be provided in accordance with such rules, regulations and guidelines. As such, the Parties agree to provide to each other number portability via LRN.
- 1.3 Nothing in this Agreement prohibits the Parties or a Party from agreeing with its customer to provide types of portability other than "service provider" portability. This agreement only addresses service provider portability and no other type of portability is currently agreed upon in this Agreement.
- 1.4 The Parties agree to comply with finalized FCC rules and orders, North American Numbering Council (NANC) procedures and guidelines concerning numbering and other industry guidelines related to network architecture, including but not limited to, North American Numbering Council Local Number Portability Architecture and Administrative Plan report, which was adopted by the FCC, Second Report and Order, CC Docket 95-116, released August 18, 1997, and Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines.
- 1.5 Service Management System (SMS) Administration. The Parties will work cooperatively with other local service providers to establish and maintain contracts for the Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC) SMS.
- 1.6 Signaling. In connection with LNP, each Party agrees to use SS7 signaling in accordance with applicable FCC rules and orders.
- 1.7 N-1 Query. Neither Party offers default query service so non-queried calls will be returned to the N-1 carrier.
- 1.8 Porting of Reserved Numbers. In addition, End User Customers of each Party may port reserved numbers, as defined in 47 CF.R. Section 52.15(f)(1)(vi) that the End User Customer has paid to reserve, only if there is at least one working telephone number in the group. Portable reserved numbers are identified on the Customer Service Record (CSR).

- 1.9 Splitting of Number Groups. The Parties shall permit blocks of subscriber numbers (including, but not limited to, Direct Inward Dial (DID) numbers and MultiServ groups) to be split in connection with an LNP request. ILEC and CLEC shall permit End User Customers who port a portion of DID numbers to retain DID service on the remaining portion of numbers. If a Party requests porting a range of DID numbers smaller than a whole block, that Party shall pay the applicable charges as listed in The Pricing Attachment for doing so. In the event no rate is set forth in this Attachment, then the Parties shall negotiate a rate for such services.
- 1.10 The Parties will set LRN unconditional or 10-digit triggers where applicable. Where triggers are set, the porting Party will remove the ported number at the same time the trigger is removed.
- 1.11 A trigger order is a service order issued in advance of the porting of a number. A trigger order 1) initiates call queries to the AIN SS7 network in advance of the number being ported; and 2) provides for the new service provider to be in control of when a number ports.

2. Coordinated Cutovers.

- 2.1 For LNP Coordinated Hot Cuts ("CHC"), CLEC may request a desired due date and time. These will be considered coordinated orders. CLEC must indicate a request for CHC on the LNP request form to request a coordinated order. LEC will not apply a 10-digit trigger upon porting telephone numbers to CLEC network. Charges for CHCs are listed in Appendix A. LEC offers two types of coordination:
 - 2.1.1 Any Time: Order to be worked anytime during the day on the due date but LEC must notify CLEC when completed.
 - 2.1.2 Specific Time: Order is to be worked at a specific time on the due date.
- 2.2 If coordination is requested, CLEC will be required to call the LEC forty-eight (48) hours prior to the requested coordination date and time. This call is to confirm or reschedule the date and/or time. LEC reserves the right to change the date and time if other demands require such a change. Every reasonable attempt will be made to commit to the requested date and/or time. Prior to the 48 hour Coordination Call, LEC will confirm with the various work groups involved with the coordination, as to their ability to complete the work on the desired date and/or time. If no call is received from CLEC, it will be assumed that CLEC is not ready and the order will not be completed on the requested due date and time. If CLEC does not contact LEC with 48 hours from the original due date to reschedule, the order will be canceled.

3. Late Notification Changes - Due Date, Coordination.

- 3.1 ILEC will proceed with the conversion based on the agreement at the 48-Hour Call. Policy for late notification of changes in due date and/or coordination time is as follows:
 - 3.1.1 If LEC personnel have to wait more than 15 minutes for CLEC to join the scheduled call for the CHC, then CLEC shall be responsible to reimburse

LEC for all personnel costs incurred. The charge will be calculated, in half hour increments, times the loaded hourly compensation rate for each personnel involved in the call.

- 3.1.2 If CLEC contacts LEC to reschedule the CHC call less than 48-Hours from the scheduled CHC call time, CLEC will be responsible to reimburse LEC for all cost incurred to date on the CHC order.
- 3.1.3 Once the scheduled call is underway, and personnel from both CLEC and LEC are present on the call, should CLEC incur a problem that would delay the conversion, LEC will provide CLEC reasonable time (20 minutes or less) to cure the problem. However, any delay longer than 20 minutes will result in LEC charging CLEC for personnel costs incurred. The charge will be calculated based on the delay time, in half hour increments, times the loaded hourly compensation rate for each personnel involved in the call.

4. Obligations of Both Parties.

- 4.1 CLEC is responsible for advising the NPAC of telephone numbers that it imports and the associated data as identified in industry forums as being required for number portability.
- 4.2 When a ported telephone number becomes vacant, e.g., the telephone number is no longer in service by the original End User Customer; the ported telephone number will be released back to the carrier who is the code holder or block holder.
- 4.3 Each party has the right to block default routed calls entering a network in order to protect the public switched network from overload, congestion, or failure propagation.
- 4.4 Both Parties must be certified by the Regional NPAC prior to the scheduling of inter-company testing.
- 4.5 Each Party will designate a single point of contact (SPOC) to schedule and perform required testing. These tests will be performed during a mutually agreed time frame and must meet the criteria set forth by the Inter-Industry LNP Regional Team for porting.
- 4.6 Each Party shall abide by NANC and the Inter-Industry LNP Regional Team provisioning and implementation process.
- 4.7 Each Party shall become responsible for the End User Customer's other telecommunications related items, e.g. E911, Directory Listings, Operator Services, Line Information Database (LIDB), when they port the end-user's telephone number to their switch.
- 4.8 The LRN associated with the ported number associated with ILEC's Local/EAS area shall be derived from an NPA- NXX within the same Local/EAS areas.

Ancillary Services Attachment

1. 911/E-911 Arrangements

- 1.1 ILEC utilizes Embarq for the provision of 911/E-911 services. The CLEC is responsible for connecting Embarq and populating Embarq's database. All relations between Embarq and CLEC are totally separate from this Agreement and ILEC makes no representations on behalf of Embarq.
- 1.2 ILEC will not be liable for errors with respect to CLEC's provision of 911/E-911 services to CLEC's End User Customers.

2. Directory Listings and Directory Distribution

- 2.1 CLEC will be required to negotiate a separate agreement for directory listings and directory distribution, except as set forth below, with ILEC's vendor for directory publications.

2.2 Listings

CLEC agrees to supply ILEC on a regularly scheduled basis, and in a format prescribed by ILEC, all listing information for CLEC's subscribers who wish to be listed in any ILEC published directory for the relevant operating area. Listing information will consist of names, addresses (including city, state and zip code) and telephone numbers. Nothing in this Agreement shall require ILEC to publish a directory where it would not otherwise do so. Listing inclusion in a given directory will be in accordance with ILEC's solely determined directory configuration, scope, and schedules and listings will be treated in the same manner as ILEC's listings.

2.3 Distribution

Upon directory publication, ILEC will arrange for the initial distribution of the directory to service subscribers in the directory coverage area. CLEC will supply ILEC, in a timely manner, with all required subscriber mailing information including non-listed and non-published subscriber mailing information, to enable ILEC to perform its directory distribution to CLEC customers. CLEC, at the discretion of ILEC, will pay ILEC for the reasonable and direct cost or directory mailings to CLEC subscribers.

**Pre-Ordering, Ordering, Provisioning,
Maintenance and Repair Attachment**

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PRE-ORDERING, ORDERING, PROVISIONING, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

1. Pre-Ordering

- 1.1 The Parties will provide access to pre-order functions to support the requesting Party's transfer of customers. The Parties acknowledge that ordering requirements necessitate the use of current pre-order information to accurately build service orders. The following lists represent pre-order functions that are available.
- 1.2 Access to retail Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) and account information for pre-ordering will include: billing name, service address, billing address, service and feature subscription, directory listing information, long distance carrier identity, and PIC freeze indication. Parties agree that the Parties' representatives will not access the information specified in this subsection without the End User Customer's permission, and that the requesting party has verification from the customer via Third Party Verification, a Letter of Authorization (LOA), etc. that the customer has agreed to the release of this information.
- 1.3 The Parties will provide the information on the following pre-ordering functions: service address validation, telephone number selection, service and feature availability, due date information, and customer record information. The Parties will include the development and introduction of the new change management process. The Parties shall provide such information in accordance with the procedures set out in the handbook or website listed in Section 1.4 of this attachment. Based on reasonable volume of requests, the standard interval for address verification is one to two business days and two business days for a full customer service record for up to 12 CSRs per day. The intervals for higher volumes of requests will be negotiated on a case by case basis.
- 1.4 Each Party will exchange handbooks and/or website addresses covering preordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance and other process information.
- 1.5 The Parties shall exchange preordering, ordering, provisioning, and maintenance information via Fax. Parties may mutually agree to add other forms of the information exchange such as email or GUI.
- 1.6 The Parties agree not to view, copy, or otherwise obtain access to the End User Customer record information of any customer without that End User Customer's permission. The Parties will obtain access to End User Customer record information only in strict compliance with applicable laws, rules, or regulations of the FCC and the state in which the service is provided. If there is a customer complaint or an unusual request for CSRs (i.e. all business customers or a large increase in volume), the Parties reserve the right to audit each other's verification information on access to End User Customer record information. If the audit reveals that the End User Customer record

information was obtained without the audited Party having obtained the proper legal permission (e.g., Third Party Verification or LOA), the auditing Party upon reasonable notice to the audited Party may take such corrective action as permitted by state and federal law. All such information obtained through an audit shall be deemed Information covered by the Proprietary and Confidential Information section in the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement.

2. Ordering

2.1 Ordering

- 2.1.1 The New Service Provider (NSP) shall place orders for services by submitting a local service request ("LSR") to the Old Service Provider (OSP). The OSP shall bill the NSP a service order charge as specified in this Attachment for each LSR submitted. An individual LSR will be identified for billing purposes by its Purchase Order Number ("PON").
- 2.1.2 The OSP will bill the service order charge, as applicable, for an LSR, regardless of whether that LSR is later supplemented, clarified or cancelled.

2.2 Provisioning

- 2.2.1 The Parties shall provision services during its regular working hours. To the extent NSP requests provisioning of service to be performed outside OSP regular working hours, or the work so requested requires OSP's technicians or project managers to work outside of regular working hours, overtime charges shall apply as specified in the Pricing Attachment of this Agreement.
- 2.2.2 Cancellation Charges. If the NSP cancels an LSR any costs incurred by OSP in conjunction with the provisioning of that request will be recovered in accordance with the rates specified in the Pricing Attachment to this Agreement.
- 2.2.3 Expedited Service Date Charges. For Expedited Service Date Advancement requests by the purchasing Party, expedited charges will apply for intervals less than the standard interval. The Expedited Service Date charge is listed in the Pricing Attachment.
- 2.2.4 Order Change Charges. If either Party modifies an order after being sent a Firm Order Confirmation (FOC) from the other Party, the Order Change Charge specified in this agreement will be paid by the modifying Party in accordance with the Pricing Attachment of this Agreement.

3. Maintenance and Repair

- 3.1 Requests for trouble repair are billed in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. The Parties agree to adhere to the procedures for maintenance and repair in their respective operations procedures as referenced in Section 1.4 of this Attachment.

- 3.2 If purchasing Party reports a trouble and no trouble actually exists on the serving Party's portion of the service ("no trouble found"), the serving Party will charge the purchasing Party for any dispatching and testing (both inside and outside the Central Office (CO) required by serving Party in order to confirm the working status. If the no trouble found rate is a higher rate than the other similar services offered by the serving Party, the purchasing Party may raise the issue with the serving Party and request that the information on the trouble shooting procedures performed on the "no trouble found" repair tickets be shared with the purchasing Party. Such request shall not be unreasonably denied.

4. Service Standards

Both Parties will comply with the Article 6 - Telecommunications Utilities in Chapter 103 - Public Service Commission of the Code of Regulations of South Carolina Sub-Article 6 - Standards and Quality of Service when providing service to the other Party.

5. Rates

All charges applicable to pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning and maintenance and repair, shall be as set forth in the Pricing Attachment to this Agreement.

6. Miscellaneous

6.1 Customer Transfer

- 6.1.1 Service orders will be in a standard format designated in accordance with industry standards. All ordering and provisioning and maintenance activity conducted pursuant to this agreement should follow the applicable industry standards which include: Local Service Ordering Guidelines (LSOG) developed in the Ordering and Billing Forum (OBF) at the Alliance of Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) and approved North American Numbering Council (NANC) procedures and guidelines concerning Local Number Portability (LNP) processes.
- 6.1.2 When notification is received from the New Service Provider that a current End User Customer of Old Service Provider will subscribe to New Service Provider's service, standard service order intervals for the appropriate class of service will apply.
- 6.1.3 The New Service Provider will be the single point of contact with Old Service Provider for all subsequent ordering activity resulting in additions or changes to services except that Old Service Provider will accept a request directly from the End User for conversion of the End User Customer's service from New Service Provider to Old Service Provider
- 6.1.4 If either Party determines that an unauthorized change in local service has occurred, the End User Customer's authorized local service provider will reestablish service with the End User Customer and will

pursue remedies permitted by federal and state law against the Party making the unauthorized change.

6.2 Misdirected Calls

- 6.2.1 The Parties will employ the following procedures for handling any misdirected calls (e.g., Business office, repair bureau, etc.):
- 6.2.2 To the extent the correct provider can be determined; each Party will refer misdirected calls to the proper provider of local exchange service. When referring such calls, both Parties agree to do so in a courteous manner at no charge.
- 6.2.3 For misdirected repair calls, the Parties will provide their respective repair bureau contact number to each other on a reciprocal basis and provide the End User Customer the correct contact number.
- 6.2.4 In responding to misdirected calls, neither Party shall make disparaging remarks about each other, nor shall they use these calls as a basis for internal referrals or to solicit End User Customers or to market services.

6.3 Letter of Authorization

- 6.3.1 The Parties agree that it will not submit an order to move an End User Customer's service from one Party to the other Party without the End User Customer's permission, and that the requesting Party has verification from the End User Customer via Third Party Verification, a Letter of Authorization (LOA), etc. that the End User Customer has agreed to the change in service. The OSP will not require End User Customer confirmation prior to establishing service for NSP's End User Customers.
- 6.3.2 Once the NSP submits an LSR to change an End Users Customer's local exchange service, the End User Customer will deal directly with the NSP on all inquiries concerning their local exchange service. This may include, but is not limited to billing repair, directory listing, and number portability. The NSP is responsible for any charges that may be incurred in connection with service requests for End User Customers change in service providers.
- 6.3.3 If, based on an End User Customer complaint, either Party (the "Complaining Party") determines that the other Party (the "Changing Party") has submitted an unauthorized change in local service, the Parties will reestablish service for the End User Customer with the appropriate local service provider. The Complaining Party will notify the Changing Party of the End User Customer complaint, and the Changing Party may provide proof that the change was authorized. If the Changing Party is unable to provide such proof, the Complaining Party may assess the Changing Party, as the LEC initiating the unauthorized change, any applicable unauthorized change charge approved by the Commission. No charges will be assessed if the Changing Party provides proof that the change was authorized.

- 6.4 Pending Orders. Orders placed in the hold or pending status by New Service Provider will be held for a maximum of thirty (30) calendar days from the date the order is placed on hold. After such time, New Service Provider] shall be required to submit a new service request. Incorrect or invalid requests returned to New Service Provider for correction or clarification will be held for thirty (30) calendar days. If New Service Provider does not return a corrected request within thirty (30) calendar days, Old Service Provider will cancel the request.
- 6.5 Neither Party shall prevent or delay an End User Customer from migrating to another carrier because of unpaid bills, denied service, or contract terms.
- 6.6 The Parties shall return a Firm Order Confirmation (FOC) and Local Service Request (LSR) rejection/clarification in the two business days.
- 6.7 Contact Numbers. The Parties agree to provide one another with contact numbers for the purpose of ordering, provisioning and maintenance of services. The Party receiving trouble tickets will close trouble tickets after making a reasonable effort to contact the other Party for authorization to close the trouble ticket. If the Party receiving the trouble ticket cannot complete the repair due to lack of information or due to lack of authorization for additional work deemed necessary by such Party, the Party receiving the trouble ticket will make reasonable attempts to contact the other Party to obtain such information or authorization. If such attempts fail, the trouble will be placed in a delayed maintenance status.

RATES AND CHARGES

General.

The rates contained in this Appendix are the rates as referenced in the various sections on the Interconnection Agreement and are subject to change as a result of filings with state and federal Commission rulings and proceedings, including but not limited to, any generic proceeding to determine Bluffton's costs, the establishment of a competitively neutral universal service system, or any appeal or other litigation.

A. Transport Rate:

1. Direct Trunked Transport Termination:

- | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| a) DS1 | \$ 65.58 / termination / month* |
| b) DS3 | \$ 365.29 / termination / month* |

* Rates equal to the Federal Access tariff effective on July 1, 2006

2. Direct Trunked Transport Facility:

- | | |
|--------|--------------------------|
| a) DS1 | \$ 13.30 / mile / month* |
| b) DS3 | \$ 91.50 / mile / month* |

* Rates equal to the Federal Access tariff effective on July 1, 2006

3. Non-recurring Installation Charge \$ 404.00 / order

B. Transit Traffic Rate \$ 0.006 / min.

C. General Charges:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Service Order (LSR) | \$ 20.00 / request |
| 2. Service Order Cancellation Charge | \$ 10.00 / request |
| 3. Expedited Due Date | \$ 45.00 / day |
| 4. Order Change Charge | \$ 10.00 / request |
| 5. Technical Labor – | |

Install & Repair Technician:

Basic Time (normally scheduled hours)	\$19.29 / ½ hr
Overtime (outside normally schld hrs on schld work day)	\$28.93 / ½ hr
Premium Time (outside of scheduled work day)	\$38.57 / ½ hr

Central Office Technician:

Pricing Attachment

Basic Time (normally scheduled hours)	\$20.71 / ½ hr
Overtime (outside normally schld hrs on schld work day)	\$31.00 / ½ hr
Premium Time (outside of scheduled work day)	\$41.50 / ½ hr

Customer Service Representative

Basic Time (normally scheduled hours)	\$16.00 / ½ hr
Overtime (outside normally schld hrs on schld work day)	\$24.00 / ½ hr
Premium Time (outside of scheduled work day)	\$32.00 / ½ hr

6. Rates and Charges for LNP Coordinated Hot Cut (CHC) Billed Based on Labor Hours